

PROCASTINATION.

BY EQUINE MORIA.

How prone we are to say
And plait our hair to cry no more,
Then of our error live
And penitence the wrong deplore.

"The said 'tis human thus to err
And leave undone some wanted task;
And yet 'tis human to prefer
For wrong forgiveness thus to ask."

We fully think in earnest mood
To faithfully perform the trust,
But other cares soon intrude
And from our minds the duty thrust.

Mayhap a letter long delayed
We owe some anxious, waiting friend;
But blame we hope to then evade,
And wait of time to write pretend.

Vain hope! That very friend, in sooth,
Has pleaded for the same excuse
And, knowing well 'tis want of truth,
He, smiling, labels it a ruse.

Full many a promise rashly made
Is faded not to be redeemed;
Full many a duty long delayed
Has lost to us a friend esteemed.

TARRYING WITH FLUIDS

BY JOHN STEPHENS.

James Drummond sat at the dining-table of the Grand Pacific Hotel. His neighbors, two gentlemen of strikingly handsome appearance, made themselves particularly agreeable. A waiter brought a telegram addressed to James Drummond, the address on which he read in an audacious voice. The two gentlemen exchanged significant glances.

One of them, Col. Lamont, a large portly man with a fund of anecdote and an unctuous laugh, renewed his attentions to Mr. Drummond, at whose jokes he gave the ready compliment of the laugh.

Both gentlemen were evidently old friends, and judging by their conversation were capitalists who had many dealings together in cattle and real estate.

Whenever Drummond asked a question or made a remark they listened with respectful attention. He came to the conclusion that they were by long odds the most pleasant and well-bred gentlemen he had met since his arrival in the West.

After a cigar in the office a game of cards to pass away the time was suggested by the Colonel, to which proposition Drummond readily assented.

It was a pleasant game and after a few hours' amusement Mr. Burrows pulled out his watch and remarked:

"Colonel, business before pleasure. You know we are to be up early to-morrow to meet William on at the stock yards and close that deal."

"Yes, I had forgotten about that. Mr. Drummond, we shall be pleased to meet you some other evening, when we have no early engagement in the morning, but you will have to excuse us now, and give us our revenge at some other time."

Drummond retired with his winnings, which were not very extensive, and left his card-table companions cogitating evidently over some important matter of business.

"Colonel, I think by the looks of things, that the game is working to perfection."

"Yes, Charlie, and that was a good move of yours to dismiss him early. Business before pleasure, you know."

At this recollection the Colonel gave a hearty laugh, and, lighting a cigar, proceeded to deal from the pack of cards.

"I have got it, at my finger ends—can do it every time," he exclaimed.

"Yes," was the response from his companion, "you are all right if you keep sober; but you make a most bungling mess of it when you indulge in liquor."

The Colonel tilted his cigar and exclaimed: "Now, Charlie, give us a rest on lecturing. Didn't I tell you he was the man?"

Now saw by the telegram that his name was James Drummond. He is the cattle-king of Montana and takes a pride in his prowess at the card table. Few of the men in the Rockies, I am told, can get away with him. But it is my opinion that with your aid, my dear Charlie, we will show him the higher mathematics of poker and give him a college degree that will cost him considerable.

"There is one thing that struck me as unaccountable," said Burrows, "that when we got into a discussion on cattle, mentioned the stock-yards, and the deal we were having on hand, he took but little notice and conducted himself like a man who was in no wise interested."

"There he showed his shrewdness," said the Colonel. "You don't think he was going to enter into any discussion with us when he supposed by our conversation that we were in the same trade. These cattle-men are not in the habit of giving their business away."

Here a tap was heard on the door, and in response to the cheerful "come in" of Mr. Burrows the door opened and a beautiful girl of about ten came bounding in and threw herself into his arms.

"Oh, papa!" she exclaimed, breathlessly. Mrs. Randolph has asked me to go to the matinee to-morrow afternoon. May I go?"

"Yes, you may, but don't let your foolish little tongue run away with your good sense, and you mustn't let late hours and dissipation take the bloom off your cheeks which you acquired on our ranch in Montana."

"Our ranch in Montana!" exclaimed the girl, in astonishment.

"Charlie," said the Colonel, in a disgusted tone, "that game won't work. There is too much truth in those eyes."

"You were too young, my dear, to remember," continued Burrows, taking no notice of the Colonel's remonstrance, "but you had many happy days in the far West on our ranch, where the cattle, like those of Scripture, were on a thousand hills. If Mrs. Randolph asks you any questions about me, say that your father is a large dealer in cattle, and what I tell you is so, because I say it's so."

The girl looked incredulous, but kissing her papa good-night, said, artlessly:

"I don't recollect, papa, of being on a ranch, but I know I was there because dear, kind old papa knows best where I was long ago."

After she was gone the two men put on their overcoats and left the hotel by the Jackson street entrance.

Next evening at dinner Drummond found himself in the company of the interesting companions of the previous evening, and, after cigars, accompanied them to their rooms.

The game was a little more interesting to him, and about nine o'clock he found himself about \$250 out of pocket, but fortunately a waiter brought a telegram which required his immediate presence at the Sherman House on a matter of business.

He arose, and explaining that he could not afford himself the pleasure of spending a longer time in such agreeable company, but promising to take his revenge next evening, bowed himself out.

"Deuced unlucky," growled the Colonel. "I was in the best possible shape and could deal out any hand to order. I could see he was getting hot at losing, and I was on the point of proposing in a careless way to double the stakes."

"We have got him fast," responded

Burrows, "and to-morrow night we will open the game in good earnest. Funds are getting short, as I have some bills to meet, and we must replenish our bank account. Suppose you let me have \$200?"

The Colonel consented, and Burrows, after placing it in the bureau drawer, put the key under a mat on the mantelpiece.

"Guess I'll go down to Jim's, on Clark street," yawned the Colonel, "and try my luck."

"See that you let the fluid on the side-board alone and you will be sure to come out all right."

"There, you are lecturing again," pettishly responded the Colonel. "Don't you suppose that I'm man enough to do a thing when I say I'll do it?"

"Give me your hand on it and I'll go with you."

This the Colonel did, and after a lengthened period the two men returned with considerable winnings, and to the \$200 in the bureau over \$700 as Burrows' share was added.

"Now," he soliloquized as he retired for the night, "I have enough to send Ada to school and pay her bills. She won't have to live longer with her crabbed aunt whom she detests. This is a great relief to my mind. Now I'm in magnificent shape to tackle the cattle king to-morrow night. I hope the Colonel will keep to his promise, but I didn't like the long looks he cast on the sideboard this evening."

After transacting business Drummond returned to his hotel and turned into bed sincerely hoping that luck would befriended him when next he played with his interesting friends.

The Colonel, who had all his life indulged in stimulants, felt their need. He awoke about noon and after breakfast strolled down to the gambling den where he had spent the previous evening.

Luck favored him at first, but the soon lost heavily. The tempting sideboard allured him. He drank. Kept on drinking and losing. His was a temperament that one drink acted on him like a lighted match to a hay stack. Soon every cent was gone. After watching the other players gloomily for some time he sprang up with a frown, as if he had formed a disagreeable resolution, returned to the hotel, passed Drummond, who was standing in the porch, with a hurried bow, went to Burrows' room, unlocked the bureau and took \$500, leaving but \$450 in the drawer.

Drummond stood watch at the Post-office in a contemplative mood, and in an abstract way gazed at a girlish figure crossing over. She looked up and waved her hand gracefully to some one in the hotel, and while so doing did not perceive the rapid approach of a team driven by a man evidently in an intoxicated state.

Drummond at once saw the danger, and, dashing over, felt the hot breath of the horses in his face, but was just in time to seize the girl and drag her out of the way, but not before the muddy wheels had soiled her dress.

He bore the terrified child into the hotel, and at the ladies' entrance encountered the pale face of Mr. Burrows, who, exclaiming, "Thank God, my girl is safe!" turned to her rescuer and was profuse in his thanks.

Speaking to the clerk shortly afterward, he mentioned the occurrence, and asked the official if he would mention the affair to the reporters, stating in effect that James Drummond, the great Montana cattle king, had rescued the daughter of Charles Burrows, a prominent ranchman of the same State, from being run over, and that both were guests of the hotel.

James Drummond, of Montana, said the clerk, "left here two days ago. We have a James Drummond stopping here but he is a commercial traveler who represents a New York iron firm. There he is coming out of the waiting-room."

Mr. Burrows was dumfounded at the information. The game of fleeing a cattle king could not be played, and all he and his partner had accomplished was to get \$250 out of a drummer, who could ill afford such a loss, and who had rescued his child from a horrible death.

"The strong hours conquer us," said Schiller. Reparation must be made, and he quickly devised a plan to accomplish his object. He had nearly \$800 in the bureau, and the Colonel had almost as much. He had sufficient to pay the bills and send his daughter to school. He determined to invite Drummond up that evening and by methods at which he was an expert allow him to win back the \$250 he had lost.

He noticed at dinner that the Colonel was very flushed and uneasy, and showed evident signs that he had been indulging. His condition chimed in excellently well with his plan. I shall now have no difficulty in carrying it out," he said to himself.

The Colonel took a hand and intimated that the time had come for business. Somehow his combination failed to work, and Drummond was soon a winner to an amount equivalent to his previous losses.

The Colonel, with an oath, threw down the cards and staggered to his room.

This broke up the game and Burrows, after again thanking Drummond for saving his child, bid him a kindly good-night, remarking:

"My dear fellow, we must not play any more. The Colonel and I can afford such trifling losses, which only tend to make the game interesting, but you are not in a position to take such risks."

Drummond retired, feeling the force of the remark, and after his departure Burrows examined the bureau-drawer and found that he had but little over \$200 left. He rushed to the Colonel's room and demanded an explanation.

The Colonel confessed that he had fallen from grace, but tried to soothe the matter by informing Burrows that they would work Drummond next evening for a big stake.

"Look here, Colonel," said Burrows, in a hoarse voice, "all connection with us ceases from this time. You go your way and I'll go mine. That man is not a cattle king but a commercial traveler. This afternoon he saved my child. I saw you were intoxicated to-night, and worked your combination in his favor. My act and your breach of promise has left me but \$200 to face the world on; but I would do precisely what I have done to-night if it left me penniless."

How We Are Made.

"Hullo, Billy," shouted a Norwich public-school boy of the primary division to a parochial-school chum, "I'm studying hygiene and phizzerology now! Don't teach 'em in your school, does they?" They tells yer all about yourself, just how many insisters and molers yer have in yer mouth, and how yer all tied together with ligaments. If these teachers tell the truth, Billy, we're dun up just as carefully as a bundle o' dried apples is."

—Norwich Bulletin.

It is the partings in this world that give us pain," sadly sings a poet. It is the meetings too. If you don't believe this, ask the man who has a note to meet.

A Rochester girl has an admirer who always brings her chewing gum. She calls him her gumbeau.

HINTS ABOUT HOUSES.

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS TO PEOPLE WHO CONTEMPLATE BUILDING.

Several Plans for Residences Ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000—Useful Information on the Subject of Planning and Building Houses.

UCH hints and suggestions as are herein embodied will be found most useful to all who contemplate building homes. To begin with, a dwelling should be located so as to secure the finest view from the rooms that are most used, and to obtain drainage from the building by the natural grade. The furnace and kitchen should be on north side, the dining-room to east and south, the library to north and west, and the parlor to south and west. All natural advantages of site should be retained, if practicable. On the exterior put no finished work that will be hidden by vines, etc., or on the interior that will be hidden by side-board, book-cases, or other things of a permanent character. Every



A HALL SEAT.

feature of a building should indicate a reason for its existence, and every foot of space in a building should be utilized and well lighted.

The first plan printed in this article shows an unusually pretty cottage, a small one, it is true, but large enough for a neat, cozy little home. It can be erected at a cost of \$1,500. The foundation is of stone, the first story of clear siding and shingles and gable and roof shingles. The plan provides a living room, kitchen and two bed rooms on the first floor and a large well-lighted attic. The chimney provides flues for all rooms, and by arching them together over stairs they are brought through the roof in one top, saving expense. Two pleasant rooms are furnished in the attic. There is no cellar, but for \$150 additional one could be built under that portion of the house reached by stairs opening from the large kitchen closet. This plan, with slight modifications, would make a serviceable and cheap suburban cottage.

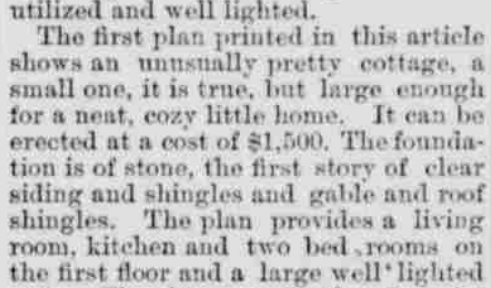
The second house shown is also well planned for the money. Its cost is \$2,000. The foundation is stone and brick, the first story clapboarding. The special features of this house are:



GENERAL PERSPECTIVE—A FIVE-THOUSAND-DOLLAR HOUSE.



FIRST FLOOR.



SECOND FLOOR.

size of rooms is shown in the floor plans. Give the womanly element to rooms. All rooms that are attractive look as if they were occupied, and there should be nothing in them that seriously interferes with comfort. If a room is to be furnished let it have in it, first, the things that are required; afterward, the things that are necessary to make it interesting.

The successful furnishing of a room depends quite as much on taste as it does on the length of one's purse. People of moderate means should avoid spending too much on chairs and tables. The eye rarely rests on the table, but it always looks at the things on the table. Tables are almost always too small for comfort or beauty. Therefore have a large table, with writing materials and ample room for books and papers. Avoid gilt on wall papers, and velvet and plush in carpets and furniture if your rooms are small. If possible, compare wall papers and carpets to see how they affect one another, and do not take it for granted that if they are pretty in themselves they will be pretty together. Give rooms that open from one another decidedly different tones of color, that the eye may be rested by the change, and not have to look out

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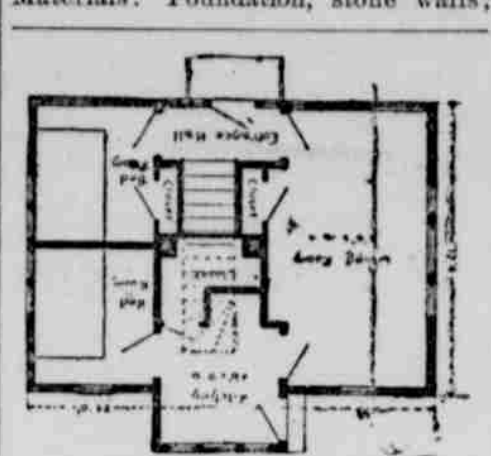
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scription, illustrated in the double column cuts, is presented for the benefit of those of our readers who can afford to build such a house, the design of a really beautiful home costing \$5,000. Of course, this design can be so modified as to lessen the cost very materially. Size of structure: Front, including kitchen and parlor bay, 41 feet. Side, not including verandas, 31 feet, 6 inches. Height of stories: Cellar, 6 feet, 6 inches; first story, 9 feet, 6 inches; second story, 8 feet, 6 inches. Materials: Foundation, stone walls;



THE FLOOR PLAN.

first story, clapboards; second story, shingles; gables, shingles; roof of house, slate; of verandas, shingles. The special features are: A compact arrangement of rooms. All the rooms of the first floor communicate. Direct access to the front hall from the kitchen without passing through a living room. Heater pipes and registers are provided in all the rooms. The attic is plastered and finished in one large playroom for children; three or four bedrooms can be made instead, if preferred. Cellar under the whole house. Laundry under library. The

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